

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 039 797

FL 001 721

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TITLE Why Study Latin?
INSTITUTION American Classical League, Washington, D.C.
NOTE 3p.
AVAILABLE FROM American Classical League, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056 (Item No. 570, \$0.20)

EDRS PRICE EDRS Price MF-\$0.25 HC-\$0.25
DESCRIPTORS Classical Languages, *Counseling, Cultural Enrichment, English, *Language Instruction, *Latin, Motivation, *Motivation Techniques, *Secondary Schools, Spelling

ABSTRACT

The use of the chalkboard is suggested in this article to give concrete answers to the question of why one should study Latin. Six groups of sentences each illustrate a different principle of how Latin is related to other fields of study. (RL)

AMERICAN CLASSICAL LEAGUE SERVICE BUREAU

No. 570

WHY STUDY LATIN?

By Mrs. E. V. Stearns

A section of the blackboard is set aside for the heading "Why Study Latin?" under which is placed the short opening paragraph of Group I to remain up for a whole week. The sentences labeled with the days of the week are changed every day. Groups II - VI are used during the next five weeks in the same manner as Group I.

GROUP I: Latin will help you to understand English words, because about one-half of them have descended from the Latin which the Romans used to speak when they ruled almost the whole of the civilized world.

MONDAY: We call a dog who burrows in the ground a "terrier" because the Latin word for ground or earth is "terra."

TUESDAY: We should not have the word "naval" if the Romans had not given us "navis" (ship).

WEDNESDAY: If you know that "aer" means "air" and "nauta" means "sailor," you do not need to be told that "aeronaut" is a "sailor of the air."

THURSDAY: People are talking a great deal now about "belligerents" and "neutrals." The former comes from "bellum" (war) and "gerere" (to carry on). The latter comes from a Latin word, "neuter," meaning "neither."

FRIDAY: Since "sub" means under and "marinus," connected with the sea, a Latin student can easily guess what a submarine is.

GROUP II: But it's not merely Latin words that we find back of the English ones. Sometimes we have in English the actual Latin expressions used without any change of spelling but pronounced as if they were English words.

MONDAY: Post mortem (after death)

TUESDAY: i.e., an abbreviation for "id est" (that is)

WEDNESDAY: e.g., an abbreviation for "exempli gratia" (for the sake of an example)

THURSDAY: Q. E. D., an abbreviation for "quod est demonstrandum" (which was to be proved)

FRIDAY: Alias (otherwise); used as an English noun meaning "an assumed name"

GROUP III: Knowing how to spell certain English words is another advantage of Latin.

MONDAY: Labora/tory -- Anyone who has studied "laborare" will

spell this with an "a".

TUESDAY: Trans/ient -- The Latin pupil will include both the "i" and "e" for he knows the verb form it comes from.

WEDNESDAY: Se/para/te -- "parare" warns us to use an "a".

THURSDAY: Annu/al has two "n's" because we know "annus."

FRIDAY: Collaborate has two "l's" because it comes from "con" (sometimes spelled "col-") and "laborare."

GROUP IV: Knowing Latin roots helps one to get on faster in other subjects.

MONDAY: In arithmetic or algebra, "fraction" comes from the Latin word "fractus" (broken into parts).

TUESDAY: In science, an aqueous substance (watery) comes from "aqua" (water).

WEDNESDAY: In English, a transitive verb is one which "goes across" to an object comes from "trans" and "ire" (to go across).

THURSDAY: In physiology, almost every bone has a Latin name.

FRIDAY: In civics, "judicial" comes from the Latin word "iudex" (a judge).

GROUP V: If you intend to take French, Spanish, or Italian in high school you will find Latin a great help. Authorities state that 90% of the words in any of these languages came from Latin.

	<u>LATIN</u>	<u>FRENCH</u>	<u>SPANISH</u>	<u>ITALIAN</u>
MONDAY:	Bonus	Bon	Bueno	Buono
TUESDAY:	Lingua	Langue	Lengua	Lingua
WEDNESDAY:	Amare	Aimer	Amar	Amare
THURSDAY:	Novus	Nouveau	Nuevo	Nuovo
FRIDAY:	Portare	Porter	Portar	Portare

GROUP VI: Some other reasons for taking Latin:

MONDAY: It will help you to understand Roman history. Latin authors are the sources for all modern textbooks on Roman history.

TUESDAY: The religion of the Greeks and Romans known to us partly under the name of mythology must be understood by anyone who wants to understand a great many pictures and statues. This is also true of many newspaper cartoons and advertisements. Atlas had to hold the sky on his shoulders. A firm in Portland, Maine, that makes a very strong cement, calls it "Atlas" cement.

WEDNESDAY: Consider the professions; e.g., Law. "Habeas corpus" and "mandamus" are much more easily learned by a Latin student.

THURSDAY: Consider Medicine.

The word "inflammation" means "to be on fire" and "carbuncle" means "a live coal."

FRIDAY: Consider Pharmacy.

If you go to a drugstore and look at the labels on the bottles on the shelves, you will find they are mostly Latin. Prescriptions, too, were originally written in Latin and Latin abbreviations are still used.

NOTE: A helpful book for understanding word formation is Language and Its Growth, by Scott, Carr and Wilkinson (Scott, Foresman and Co., Chicago) and Latin Words in Common English, by Johnson (D. C. Heath and Co., Boston). See also Service Bureau mimeographs: No. 279 (Latin Words and Phrases in English, 15¢), No. 349 (A List of Common Latin Abbreviations Used in English, 15¢), No. 402 (Some of the More Common Latin Expressions Frequently Met in One's Reading, 30¢), No. 442 (Latin Abbreviations and Symbols in Medicine and Pharmacy, 10¢), No. 446 (Latin Words Adopted into English, 25¢), No. 542 (A List of Medical Abbreviations Taken From Latin: Required in a Course for Training Nurses, 15¢), No. 574 (Law Terms and Phrases From Latin, 20¢).